

REMARKS:

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 5-7 and 13-16. Claim 5 is amended herein, and new claim 17-20 has been added. Claims 6, 7 and 13-16 are cancelled herein without prejudice, and claims 1-4 and 8-12 remain cancelled. Proper support for the amendments can be found at least on page 26, line 16 through page 27, line 7 and FIG. 11. No new matter is presented.

Thus, claims 5 and 17-20 are pending and under consideration. The rejections are traversed below.

OBJECTION TO CLAIM 5:

On page 2 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 5 due to informalities. Claim 5 is amended herein to recite, "certificating unit" to overcome the objection.

Therefore, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e):

Claims 5-7 and 13-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,584,505 (Howard). As mentioned above, claims 6, 7 and 13-16 are cancelled herein.

Howard is directed to concealing login information from a network server by preventing the login information from being communicated through the network server. In Howard, affiliate servers allowing an authentication center to perform all the authentication functions in a centrally controlled manner are provided (see, FIG. 1 and corresponding text). When web pages on the affiliate servers is accessed by a user, each of the affiliate servers is configured to redirect the user browser to a "sign-in" web page of an authentication server (see, col. 6, lines 53-63). Then, the authentication server sets cookies and again redirects the user browser back to the initially accessed service server after confirming validity of data input using the "sign-in" web page (see, FIG. 5 and 6 and corresponding text). That is, each of the affiliate or service servers of Howard are required to generate a customized display for the user.

In contrast, the present invention determines whether services are available to a user by sending an inquiry to a certificate authority such as an authentication institution. As a result, a terminal of the user is provided with layout information to generate a display corresponding to service information including portions covering all the services found to be available in

accordance with the inquiry. For example, as illustrated in FIG. 10 of the present application, a user is provided with information of banks, credit cards, insurance company, etc., on a single layout screen based on a common certificate (see also, page 27, line 2 through page 28, line 14).

Independent claim 5 as amended recites, “receiving service information of available services” and “providing the terminal unit of the user with layout data for displaying a screen including a display region corresponding to the service information of the available services.” This, for example, significantly reduces the amount of work required to switch from one display to another because a plurality of mutually different sets of service information are displayed in a display screen generated by another service server.

Howard does not teach or suggest, “receiving service information of available services” and “providing layout data for displaying a screen including a display region corresponding to the service information of the available services”, as recited in claim 5.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 5 is patentably distinguishable over Howard.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIMS:

New claims 17 and 18 recite that the present invention provides, “service information of available services and layout data for displaying a screen including a display region corresponding to service information of each of the available services based on a common certificate information.” Claims 17 and 18 further recite, “displaying service information of each of the available services within a display region provided for use in relation to a particular available service.”

New claim 19 emphasizes that the present invention’s method includes, “determining whether services of the multiple providers are available to a user by sending an inquiry including a common certificate to a certifying authority” and “providing layout data defining display of service information of a first available service to a terminal of the user based on a result of the inquiry.” Claim 19 further recites that the layout data is displayed in “a single display region and includes service information of a second available service determined to be available based on the result of the inquiry.”

New claim 20 also recites, "enabling access to a first service server", "generating layout information required for displaying information of a second service server in a display region displaying service information of the first service server" and "displaying the generated layout information via a user terminal."

Howard is limited to re-directing a user to an authentication server and again re-directing the user back to the initially accessed server, and does not teach or suggest providing "layout" data for displaying various service information and collectively displaying the various service information based on the layout data (see, new claims 17-20).

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that new claims 17-20 are patentably distinguishable over Howard.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

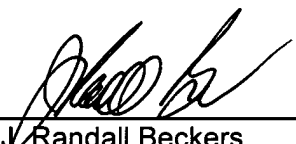
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 2/3/6

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